



STATE SENATOR **Wayne Kuipers**

30TH SENATE DISTRICT E-MAIL UPDATE



CORE Package

Members of the Senate and House announced the continuation and addition to a legislative initiative designed to help revitalize downtowns across Michigan and create job opportunities. The Creating Opportunities for Renewed Economies - CORE - is geared toward expanding and coordinating many state economic programs to operate more effectively, as well as provide incentives for growth in our cities and villages. Launched in 2004, the CORE package saw a number of its initiatives enacted in the previous session, using bold thinking along with common sense proposals to spur growth in city centers. The package includes new legislation that would allow multiple buildings to share one elevator and reserve 0.5 percent of the federal transportation fund earmarked for non-motorized trails to be used for sidewalk development within a city or village limit. The package is designed to help communities across the state revitalize their central business and residential districts, initiate new growth and create job opportunities.

Senate Approves Bill to Provide Funding Options for Recycling

Legislation to give local municipalities more options for funding recycling programs won unanimous approval from the Michigan Senate. Senate Bill 79 would allow local units of government to sponsor a ballot proposal to fund recycling programs. Local voters then would have an opportunity to vote on the additional funding. The bill now goes to the House of Representatives for consideration.

Staubach Company Testifies before State Bidding Task Force

The Staubach Company testified before the Senate Task Force on the State Bidding Process on Tuesday. The Department of Management and Budget contracted with the Staubach Company, in an experimental public/private partnership, to analyze state office needs and broker leases. The Staubach Company has been able to save the state millions of dollars by canceling and renegotiating existing leases, so we invited them to testify from their experience as we consider other possible private/public partnerships.

Heart Logo to Indicate Organ Donation

Legislation has passed the Senate that would allow organ donors to place a "heart logo" on the front of their driver's license or identification card indicating donor consent. Currently, licenses or cards issued by the Secretary of State have a special surface on the back that can be written on to allow for the organ donor consent. Senate Bill 301 would allow the addition of the logo on the front to make the consent more noticeable in the event of emergency. It also requires the Secretary of State to create an organ donor registry. Organ donor advocacy groups like Gift of Life would have electronic access to this database as well.

Save the Children Package

Senator Kuipers and others introduced a package of bills that would help struggling children in grades K-3. This package would help to implement intervention and prevention programs by building alliances between home and school. These bills were presented to the Senate Education Committee for discussion only.